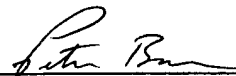## REMARKS

Changes to the specification are shown in the attached Appendix A ("VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE") with additions underlined and deletions in brackets. Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, and 24-26 have been amended from the set of claims put forward by Applicants' Amendment after final, which was indicated as "entered" by the Examiner in the Advisory Action. If Applicants' Amendment after final has not been entered, Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment after final be entered, followed by this Preliminary Amendment.

This Preliminary Amendment provides amendments to the claims in accord with the discussions by the Examiner and attorney for Applicants in their telephone interviews. These amendments are fully supported by the specification, particularly at page 5, line 22 - page 6, line 3 and page 7, line 20 - page 9, line 9. The claims as amended place the application in allowable form.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 222-8101 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter C. Breen
Registration No. 47,441
Attorney for Applicants

Appendix A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 and add claims 24-26, as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

<u>inquiring in a first transaction about a first telecommunication feature unavailable to a first party of a telecommunication network;</u>

<u>in accordance with the inquiring in the first transaction,</u> storing a first data structure which identifies the first party of the telecommunication network and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

after storing the first data structure, <u>and after completion of the first transaction,</u> inputting availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party; and

processing the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

9. (Thrice Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first call from a first party of a telecommunication network;

determining that a first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

informing, in the first call, that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the first party;

storing a first data structure which identifies the first party and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party;

receiving a second call from a second party;

determining that a second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;

informing, in the second call, that the second telecommunication feature is unavailable to the second party;

6

storing a second data structure which identifies the second party and the second telecommunication feature unavailable to the second party;

receiving a third call from a third party;

determining that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the third party;

informing, in the third call, that the first telecommunication feature is unavailable to the third party;

storing a third data structure which identifies the third party and the first telecommunication feature unavailable to the third party;

after storing the first data structure, the second data structure, and the third data structure <u>and after the first call, the second call, and the third call have terminated,</u> inputting availability data which indicates and availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party but not the third party;

processing the first data structure, the second data structure, the third data structure, and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party but remains unavailable to the third party; and

<u>after the first call, the second call, and the third call have terminated,</u> notifying the first party in a fourth call that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

10. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a database comprising a first data structure which identifies a first party of a telecommunication network and a first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party<u>, wherein the first data structure is generated in response to a first inquiry</u>;

a computer to receive availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party, <u>wherein the computer receives availability data after the completion of the first inquiry and after generation of the first data structure,</u> the

computer to process the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

17. (Thrice Amended) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer to store a first data structure which identifies a first party of a telecommunication network and a first telecommunication feature unavailable to the first party, after completion of storage of the first data structure, at a later time to receive availability data which indicates an availability of the first telecommunication feature to a portion of the telecommunication network which serves the first party, and to process the first data structure and the availability data to determine that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

24. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
[in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable,] after completion of the first transaction, at a later time notifying the first party in a second transaction that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

25. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein, after completion of the first inquiry, generation of the first data structure, and determining that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party, the computer[, in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable,]outputs a signal to initiate notifying the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.

26. (Once Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein, after completion of storage of the first data structure and after processing the first data structure and the availability data, the contents[, in accordance with the first party having previously inquired about the first telecommunication feature when unavailable,]

8

further cause the computer to output a signal to initiate notifying the first party that the first telecommunication feature has become available to the first party.